

No. 1498

14p

# Commando

WAR STORIES IN PICTURES



# WAY OF HONOUR



Stars of Soccer—Les Sealey

# WAY OF HONOUR

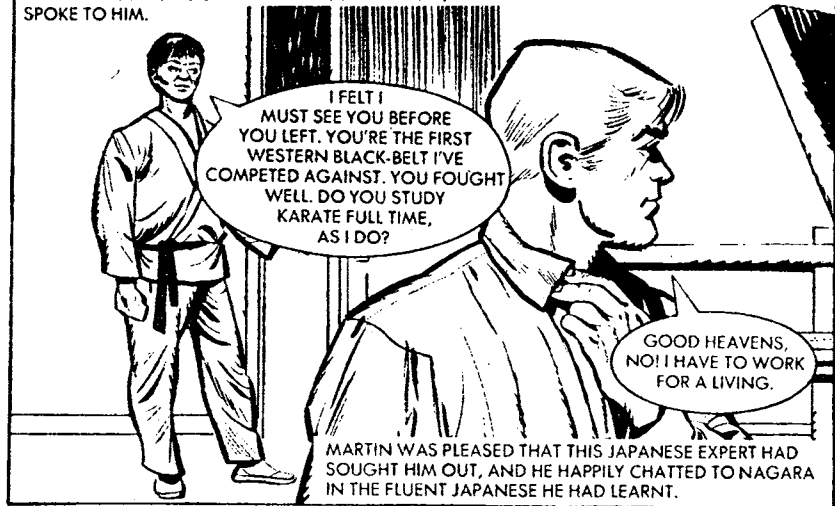
A WINNING BLOW SIGNALLLED THE END TO WHAT HAD BEEN A HARD-FOUGHT KARATE CONTEST. THE JAPANESE AUDIENCE EXPRESSED THEIR APPRECIATION TO A WORTHY WINNER AND GALLANT LOSER. . . . AND WHAT HAD MADE IT ALL THE MORE ENTHRALLING WAS THAT THIS WAS THE FIRST TIME THEY'D SEEN A MAN FROM THE WEST TACKLE ONE OF THEIR OWN RACE IN SUCH A FIGHT.



AS MARTIN HAWKINS AND HIS OPPONENT, KOJIRO NAGARA, BOWED TO EACH OTHER AT THE END OF THE BOUT, MARTIN FELT HE HAD COME TO THE RIGHT PLACE.



IN THE DRESSING ROOM AFTER THE COMPETITION, NAGARA APPROACHED MARTIN AND SPOKE TO HIM.



BUT AS THEY TALKED, ONE OF NAGARA'S COMMENTS REALLY SURPRISED MARTIN.

I AM TRYING  
TO DECIDE WHETHER TO  
DEVOTE MY LIFE TO KARATE  
OR TO BECOME A  
BUDDHIST MONK.

BUT SPORT  
AND RELIGION, THEY'RE  
ENTIRELY DIFFERENT  
THINGS.

NAGARA SHOOK HIS HEAD GENTLY AND STARTED TO EXPLAIN TO AN INCRECULOUS MARTIN.

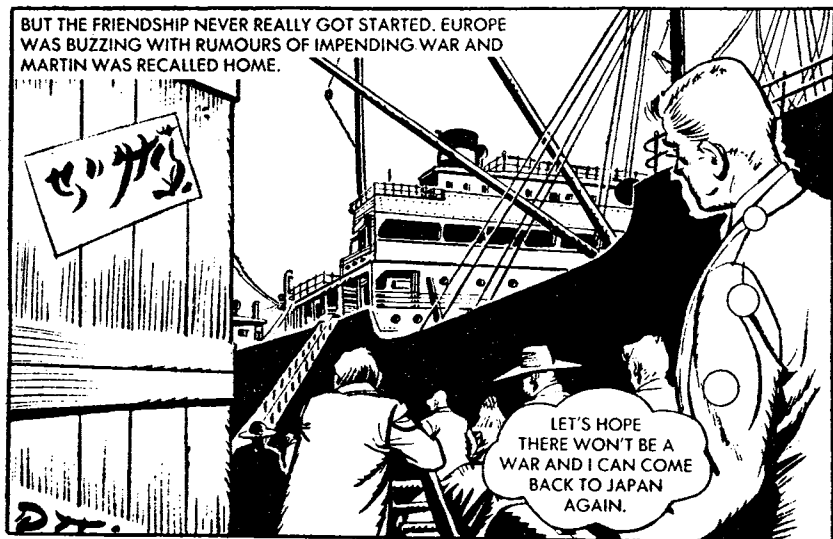
THAT IS  
A WESTERN VIEW!  
FOR ME KARATE IS A  
FORM OF MEDITATION, BUT I  
MIGHT GIVE IT UP TO  
GO INTO A  
MONASTERY.

A LOOK OF SADNESS CREPT INTO HIS  
EYES AS HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT  
HIS PARENTS DID NOT WANT HIM TO  
BECOME A MONK.

MARTIN DID NOT REALLY UNDERSTAND THE IDEA OF FRIENDSHIP WAS JUST A THE-  
SPORT, BUT HE COULDN'T HELP THINKING THAT WAY.



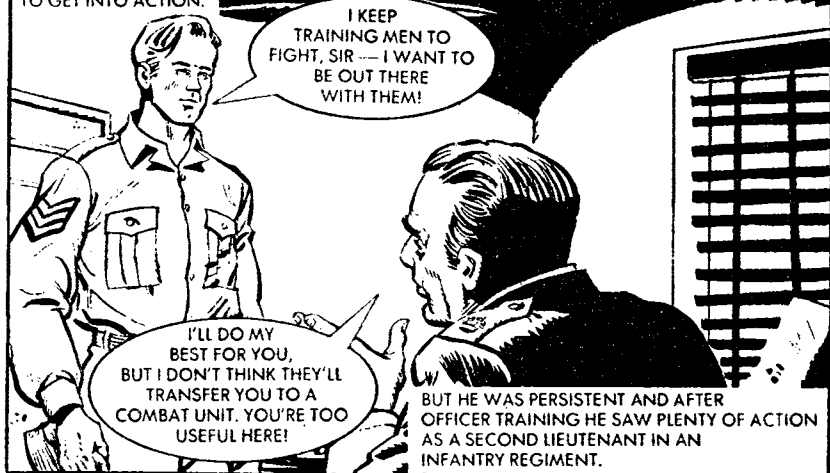
BUT THE FRIENDSHIP NEVER REALLY GOT STARTED. EUROPE  
WAS BUZZING WITH RUMOURS OF IMPENDING WAR AND  
MARTIN WAS RECALLED HOME.



WHEN WAR WAS DECLARED, MARTIN WAS SOON IN UNIFORM AND IT WASN'T LONG BEFORE HE WAS A SERGEANT IN THE ARMY PHYSICAL TRAINING CORPS.



STUCK IN CAMP AS AN INSTRUCTOR, MARTIN DID NOT LOOK LIKE EVER COMING TO GRIPS WITH THE ENEMY, AND IT WAS BEGINNING TO ANNOY HIM. HE TRIED DESPERATELY TO GET INTO ACTION.



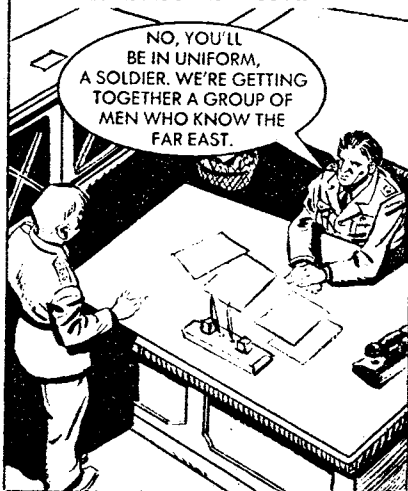
AT THE END OF 1941 HE WAS A FULL LIEUTENANT AND WAS IN ENGLAND ON LEAVE WHEN THE STARTLING NEWS BROKE THAT JAPAN HAD ENTERED THE WAR ON THE SIDE OF GERMANY.



MARTIN WAS RIGHT. IT WASN'T LONG BEFORE HE WAS ASKED IF HE'D TAKE A COURSE INVOLVING EXPLOSIVES AND SABOTAGE METHODS.



THE MAJOR ORGANISING THIS SPECIAL UNIT EXPLAINED AS MUCH AS HE COULD.





MARTIN IMMEDIATELY VOLUNTEERED AND PASSED THE SPECIAL COURSE WITH FLYING COLOURS. HE WAS PROMOTED TO CAPTAIN, AND SOON FOUND HIMSELF OUT EAST AGAIN, IN BURMA.



AT DUSK SEVERAL DAYS LATER THEY APPROACHED THE DEPOT AFTER A LONG, GRUELLING TREK THROUGH ENEMY TERRITORY.



WHEN IT GREW DARK, MARTIN MOVED FORWARD AND CALLED OUT IN JAPANESE TO ONE OF THE GUARDS.

HEY, YOU  
THERE! HELP ME!  
QUICK!

WHAT'S THAT?  
SOMEONE OUT IN THE  
JUNGLE? I'D BETTER  
INVESTIGATE.

THE LAST PERSON THE JAPANESE SOLDIER EXPECTED TO SEE SO FAR BEHIND HIS OWN LINES WAS A BRITISH OFFICER SPEAKING FLUENT JAPANESE.

SWEET  
DREAMS!

BRITISH...

ALL MARTIN'S KARATE TRAINING HAD STOOD HIM IN GOOD STEAD.

WITH THAT GUARD OUT OF THE WAY, LIKE SHADOWS THE MEN SLIPPED THROUGH THE NIGHT, INTO THE PRECIOUS DEPOT.



THE OTHER GUARD SHOULD BE PASSING IN ABOUT SIX MINUTES. WE'VE GOT TO WORK FAST, NO FANCY FUSES.

NOISELESSLY AND UNSEEN, THEY WENT ABOUT THEIR TASK OF SABOTAGE, PLACING THEIR EXPLOSIVES WHERE THEY WOULD DO MOST DAMAGE.



IF YOU'RE STILL STANDING THERE IN TWO MINUTES TIME, MY FRIEND, YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE A GREAT BIG HEADACHE!

WITHIN MINUTES THE TASK WAS ACCOMPLISHED.

THEY REACHED THE JUNGLE AGAIN AND RE-GROUPED OUTSIDE THE DEPOT WITH HALF A MINUTE TO SPARE.

THERE'S GOING TO BE A LOVELY FIREWORK DISPLAY OVER THERE SOON, SIR!

THE JAPS ARE WELCOME TO IT! LET'S GET OUT OF HERE FAST!

THEY WOULD HAVE MADE IT, BUT THE GUARD MARTIN HAD KNOCKED OUT WAS OBVIOUSLY A TOUGH CUSTOMER. HE CAME TO AND SPOTTED THE RAIDERS JUST AS THEY WERE ABOUT TO MOVE OFF.

BRITISH SOLDIERS! HALT!

HECK, THAT'S TORN IT!

MARTIN AND HIS MEN DIVED FOR COVER AS THE JAP STARTED SHOOTING, BUT THE NOISE BROUGHT OTHER ENEMY GUARDS AT THE RUN.

THAT NOISY JAP HAS STIRRED UP THE HORNETS' NEST NOW, SIR!

JUST THEN A SERIES OF TREMENDOUS EXPLOSIONS RIPPED THE DEPOT APART AND IN THE SUDDEN FLOOD OF LIGHT THE BRITISH FORCE COULD BE SEEN CLEARLY.

OH NO, OUR FIREWORK DISPLAY'S JUST A BIT TOO EARLY!

OVER THERE!



THE JAPANESE SOLDIERS CLOSED IN AS THE RAIDERS TOOK WHAT COVER THEY COULD

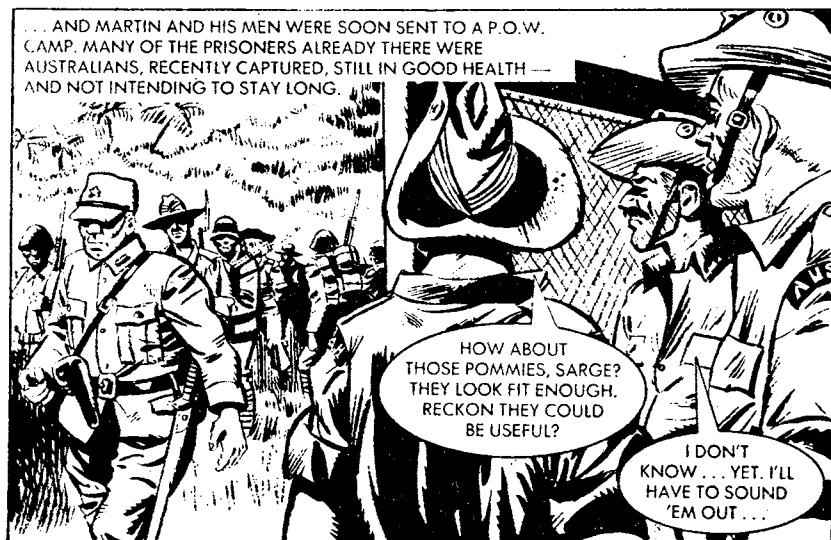


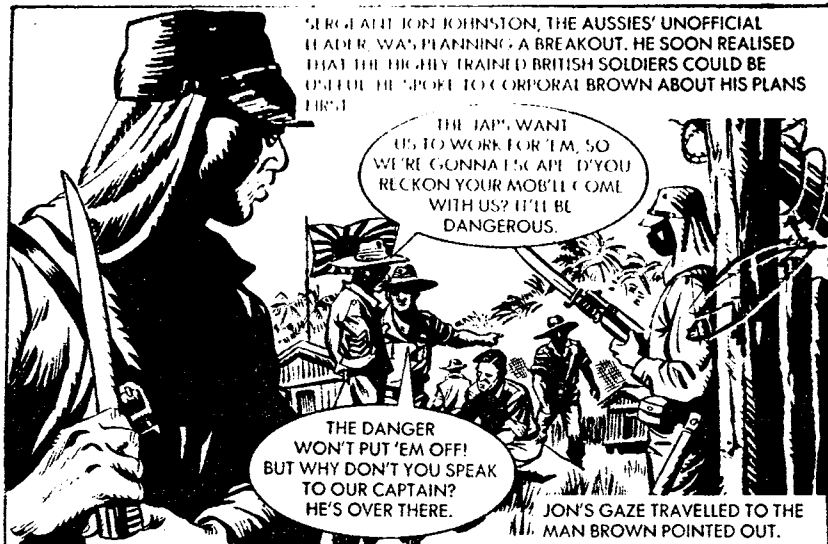
BUT MARTIN AND HIS MEN WERE DETERMINED NOT TO GO QUIETLY AND WHEN THE JAPS SPOTTED THEM, THEY POUNCED



THOUGH THEY FOUGHT BRAVELY, THE SHEER WEIGHT OF NUMBERS MEANT THAT THEY WERE ALL EVENTUALLY OVERPOWERED.





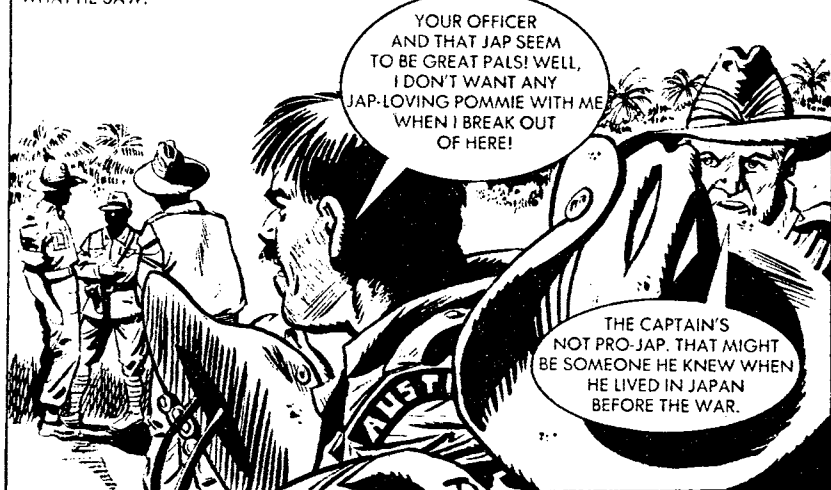




MARTIN AND NAGARA CHATTED IN JAPANESE, NOT NOTICING THE FUNNY LOOKS THEY  
GOT FROM SOME OF THE OTHER PRISONERS . . .



BUT JON WAS ALSO WATCHING MARTIN, AND HE DIDN'T LIKE  
WHAT HE SAW.



AS FAR AS JON WAS CONCERNED THAT ONLY MADE IT WORSE. HE HATED ANYTHING, AND ANYONE CONNECTED WITH JAPAN, AND HE GAVE BROWNE EXPLICIT INSTRUCTIONS ABOUT SECRECY.

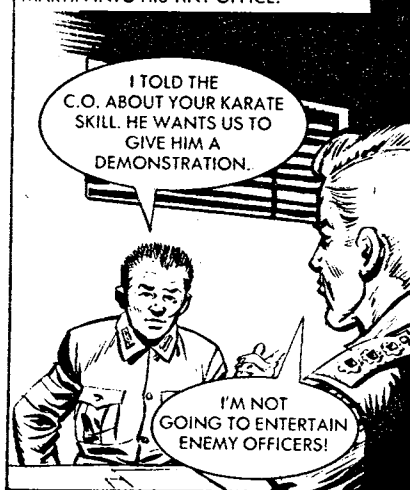


MENTION A WORD ABOUT OUR ESCAPE PLANS TO YOUR CAPTAIN AND I'LL BREAK YOUR NECK!

BUT YOU'RE WRONG ABOUT CAPTAIN HAWKINS!

BROWN WAS UNHAPPY ABOUT LEAVING HIS OFFICER OUT OF THINGS, BUT THERE WAS NOTHING HE COULD DO ABOUT IT. IF HE DIDN'T AGREE, THE TOUGH AUSSIE SERGEANT WOULD LEAVE HIM AND THE OTHERS OUT OF THE PLAN TOO.

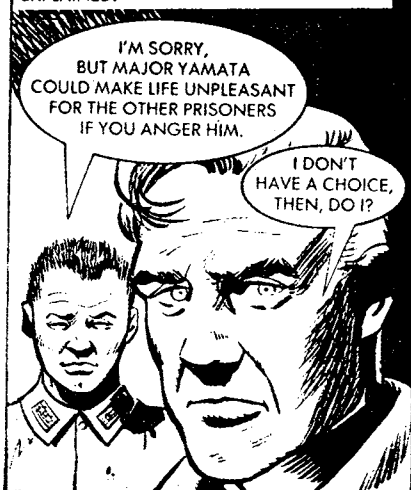
THE FOLLOWING DAY NAGARA CALLED MARTIN INTO HIS TINY OFFICE.



I TOLD THE C.O. ABOUT YOUR KARATE SKILL. HE WANTS US TO GIVE HIM A DEMONSTRATION.

I'M NOT GOING TO ENTERTAIN ENEMY OFFICERS!

NAGARA WAS SUDDENLY SERIOUS AS HE EXPLAINED.



I'M SORRY, BUT MAJOR YAMATA COULD MAKE LIFE UNPLEASANT FOR THE OTHER PRISONERS IF YOU ANGER HIM.

I DON'T HAVE A CHOICE, THEN, DO I?

MARTIN TOLD HIS MEN ABOUT THE COMING KARATE MATCH, AND BROWN REPORTED TO JON. THE SERGEANT GRINNED AS HE REALISED WHAT THIS MEANT.



THE CORPORAL AND THE OTHER MEN WERE ALMOST PLEASED THAT THINGS HAD WORKED OUT THIS WAY. THEY HAD FELT REALLY BAD ABOUT LEAVING MARTIN OUT OF THE ESCAPE PLANS.

THE FOLLOWING EVENING, MARTIN WAS TAKEN TO YAMATA'S PRIVATE QUARTERS WHERE HE AND NAGARA WERE TO GIVE THEIR DEMONSTRATION.



MARTIN AND NAGARA PUT UP A GOOD SHOW AND MAJOR YAMATA, THE SOLE SPECTATOR, BECAME ENTHRALLED WITH THE CONTIN...



THE TWO BLACK-BELTS STEPPED BACK FOR A MOMENT, PAUSING BEFORE CONTINUING THE MATCH. THEN ALL IN THE ROOM LOOKED STARTLED AS A WARNING BELL SOUNDED FROM OUTSIDE.



NAGARA TURNED AWAY FROM MARTIN. AS FAR AS HE WAS CONCERNED THE BOUT WAS OVER. MARTIN SEIZED HIS CHANCE AND STRUCK OUT.



THE JAP, CAUGHT COMPLETELY UNAWARES, SLUMPED UNCONSCIOUS TO THE GROUND.

THEN MARTIN TURNED TO MAJOR YAMATA WHO BACKED AWAY AND STRUGGLED TO DRAW HIS SWORD.



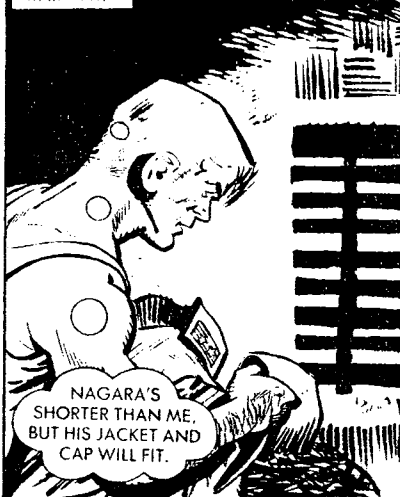
BUT WITH ALL THE CONFUSION OUTSIDE, THE GUARDS DID NOT HEAR THEIR MAJOR'S CRY FOR HELP.

THE MAJOR WAS NO MARTIAL ARTS EXPERT  
AND HE WAS SWIFTLY DEALT WITH



SOON YAMATA ALSO LAY UNCONSCIOUS.

THE MAJOR TURNED TO NAGARA'S  
UNIFORM



NAGARA'S  
SHORTER THAN ME,  
BUT HIS JACKET AND  
CAP WILL FIT.

NOW DISGUISED, HE CLIMBED THROUGH A WINDOW INTO THE JAPANESE PART OF THE  
CAMP. THE SHADOWS AND HIS BORROWED UNIFORM HELPED TO CAMOUFLAGE HIM.



IF I CAN  
GET THROUGH THE  
FENCE I MIGHT MAKE IT  
TO THE JUNGLE. ANYTHING'S BETTER  
THAN SPENDING THE WAR  
BEHIND BARS.

THOUGH HE HAD NO IDEA WHAT THE COMMOTION WAS  
ABOUT, HE REALISED THAT HE HAD A GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY  
TO ESCAPE.

THE SOLDIERS WERE TOO BUSY WITH THE BREAKOUT TO QUESTION THE SHADOWY FIGURE AND HE WAS SOON OUTSIDE THE CAMP PERIMETER.



MARTIN PUSHED HIS WAY THROUGH THE JUNGLE. IT WAS HEAVY GOING AND HIS PROGRESS WAS SLOW.



THINKING THAT IT MIGHT BE JAPS, HE TOOK COVER, BUT TO HIS AMAZEMENT MARTIN SAW FAMILIAR FACES AMONG THE NEWCOMERS.



JON WASN'T ALL THAT PLEASED TO SEE MARTIN, WHO WAS ANGRY ABOUT BEING LEFT OUT OF THE ESCAPE PLANS. SLIGHTLY ASHAMED, BROWN EXPLAINED.





SHEEPISHLY BROWN TOLD HIM JON'S VIEWS.

THAT AUSSIE'S  
A LUNATIC! I LIKE  
NAGARA AS A MAN, BUT  
THAT DOESN'T MEAN  
I SUPPORT JAPAN.

JUST THEN JON CAME UP. GRUDGINGLY HE  
AGREED TO LET MARTIN COME ALONG WITH  
THEM, BUT LEFT THEM IN NO DOUBT THAT HE  
WAS IN CHARGE

THE TOUGH AUSSIE'S JUNGLE SURVIVAL SKILLS HELPED TO GET THE ESCAPERS TO SAFETY,  
AND MARTIN WAS THE FIRST TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE DEBT WHEN THEY REACHED A BRITISH  
CAMP A FEW DAYS LATER.

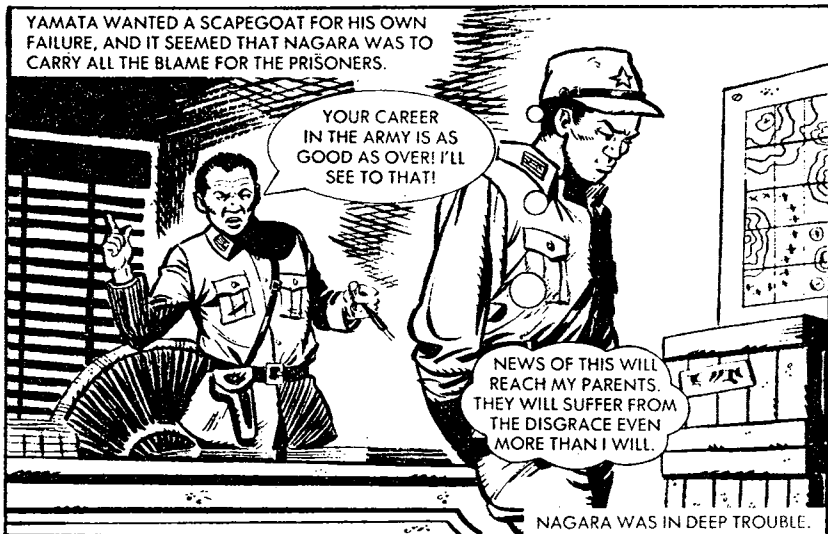
WE'VE  
MADE IT, SIR!  
WE'VE MADE IT!

MOSTLY  
THANKS TO JOHNSTON.  
HE'S CERTAINLY A USEFUL  
MAN TO HAVE AROUND  
IN A TIGHT SPOT!

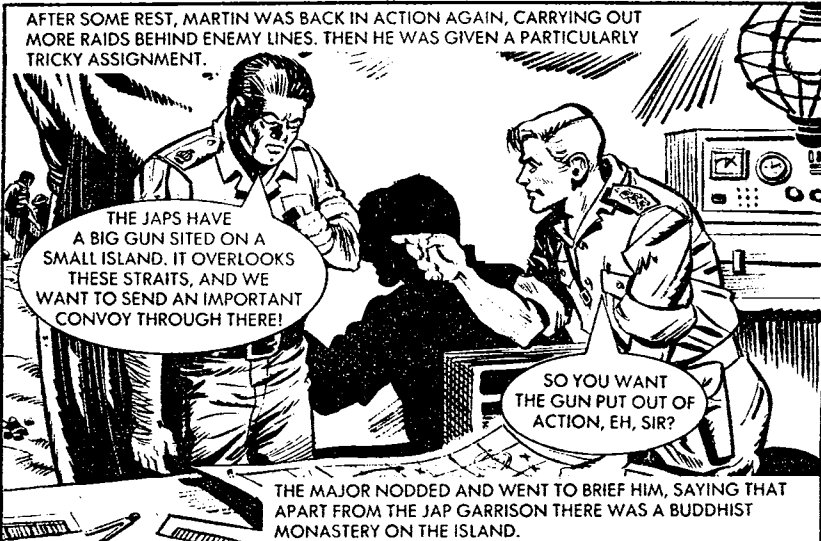
THOUGH MARTIN AND HIS MEN WERE SAFE, NAGARA HAD HAD TO BEAR THE BRUNT OF MAJOR YAMATA'S ANGER.



YAMATA WANTED A SCAPEGOAT FOR HIS OWN FAILURE, AND IT SEEMED THAT NAGARA WAS TO CARRY ALL THE BLAME FOR THE PRISONERS.



AFTER SOME REST, MARTIN WAS BACK IN ACTION AGAIN, CARRYING OUT MORE RAIDS BEHIND ENEMY LINES. THEN HE WAS GIVEN A PARTICULARLY TRICKY ASSIGNMENT.

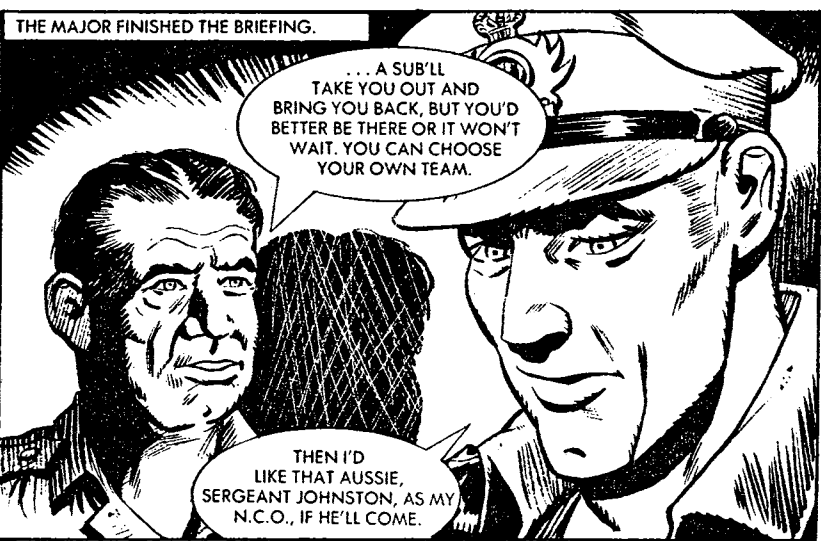


THE JAPS HAVE A BIG GUN SITED ON A SMALL ISLAND. IT OVERLOOKS THESE STRAITS, AND WE WANT TO SEND AN IMPORTANT CONVOY THROUGH THERE!

SO YOU WANT THE GUN PUT OUT OF ACTION, EH, SIR?

THE MAJOR NODDED AND WENT TO BRIEF HIM, SAYING THAT APART FROM THE JAP GARRISON THERE WAS A BUDDHIST MONASTERY ON THE ISLAND.

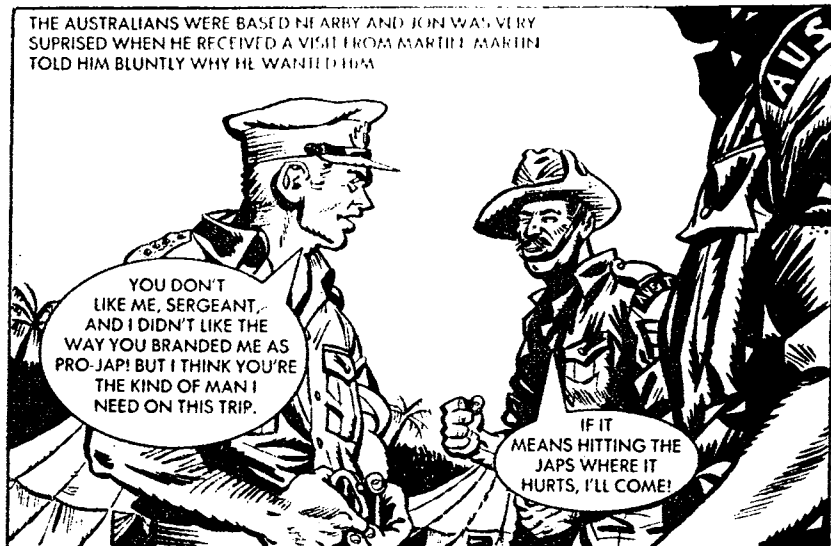
THE MAJOR FINISHED THE BRIEFING.



... A SUB'LL TAKE YOU OUT AND BRING YOU BACK, BUT YOU'D BETTER BE THERE OR IT WON'T WAIT. YOU CAN CHOOSE YOUR OWN TEAM.

THEN I'D LIKE THAT AUSSIE, SERGEANT JOHNSTON, AS MY N.C.O., IF HE'LL COME.

THE AUSTRALIANS WERE BASED NEARBY AND JON WAS VERY SURPRISED WHEN HE RECEIVED A VISIT FROM MARTIN. MARTIN TOLD HIM BLUNTLY WHY HE WANTED HIM.



SEVERAL NIGHTS LATER, MARTIN, JON AND FOUR HAND-PICKED MEN, TWO OF THEM AUSTRALIANS WHOM JON KNEW WELL, REACHED THE ISLAND, LANDING UNDER COVER OF DARKNESS.



MARTIN'S MAP TOLD HIM EVERYTHING HE WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT THE ISLAND, EXCEPT ONE THING—THE NEW SECOND IN COMMAND OF THE GUN SITE WAS LIEUTENANT NAGARA WHO WAS ON PATROL THAT NIGHT.



NAGARA HAD FRIENDS IN THE HIGH PLACES WHO ADMIRER HIS KARATE SKILLS, AND WENT OUT OF THEIR WAY TO HELP HIM.



THEN HIS THOUGHTS WERE RUDELY INTERRUPTED BY ONE OF HIS MEN.



THE MONKS WANDERED ABOUT ALL OVER THE ISLAND AND THE JAPANESE SOLDIERS WERE USED TO THEM. BUT THE FIGURES THAT NAGARA SAW WERE NOT WEARING THE TRADITIONAL ROBES.



... AND AS THEY RAN A HAIL OF BULLETS FLEW THROUGH THE NIGHT AFTER THEM.



BUT NAGARA DID NOT INTEND TO BE THROWN OFF THE TRAIL AND A HOT PURSUIT FOLLOWED WHICH LED THE BRITISH TO THE VERY WALLS OF THE BUDDHIST MONASTERY.



JUST THEN THE JAPS ARRIVED, AND AS THE FIGHT DEVELOPED, MARTIN REALISED THAT THE SITUATION WAS SERIOUS, FOR THEY WERE SURROUNDED AND OUTNUMBERED.



THE AUSTRALIAN'S STEN GUN CHATTERED.

HE WON'T  
GET ANYONE ELSE IN  
HIS SIGHTS!

AAAAGH!

BUT THE JAPANESE SOLDIERS CLOSED IN.  
ANOTHER OF MARTIN'S MEN WAS HIT.

THEY FIGHT  
LIKE TIGERS, BUT THEY  
CAN'T WIN.

DESPITE HIS DISLIKE OF TAKING LIFE, NAGARA, LIKE ALL JAPANESE, ADMIRER  
BRAVERY IN COMBAT.

WE HAVE  
SURROUNDED THEM,  
SIR. DO YOU THINK  
THEY WILL SURRENDER?

NO, BUT I  
WANT THEM ALIVE,  
IF POSSIBLE. WE MUST  
QUESTION THEM.



ON NAGARA'S ORDERS, THE FIRING SUDDENLY CEASED AND JON REGARDED THE SILENCE OMINOUSLY.



MARTIN WAS RIGHT. THE JAPANESE MOVED IN STEALTHILY, THEN MADE AN ALL-OUT CHARGE.



THE BRITISH FIRED AT POINT-BLANK RANGE, DOWNING TWO OF THE ENEMY.



WHEN THE JAPS WERE CLOSE ENOUGH, FIERCE HAND-TO-HAND COMBAT RAGED. MARTIN, WITH HIS KARATE SKILLS, PROVED HE WOULDN'T BE EASY TO CAPTURE.



NAGARA SAW MARTIN'S KARATE KICK, BUT IT WAS TOO DARK FOR HIM TO RECOGNISE MARTIN.

THAT MAN  
KNOWS KARATE --- AND  
HE'S GOOD.



THEN A RIFLE BUTT CRACKED DOWN ON MARTIN'S HEAD AS A JAP CREPT UP BEHIND HIM.

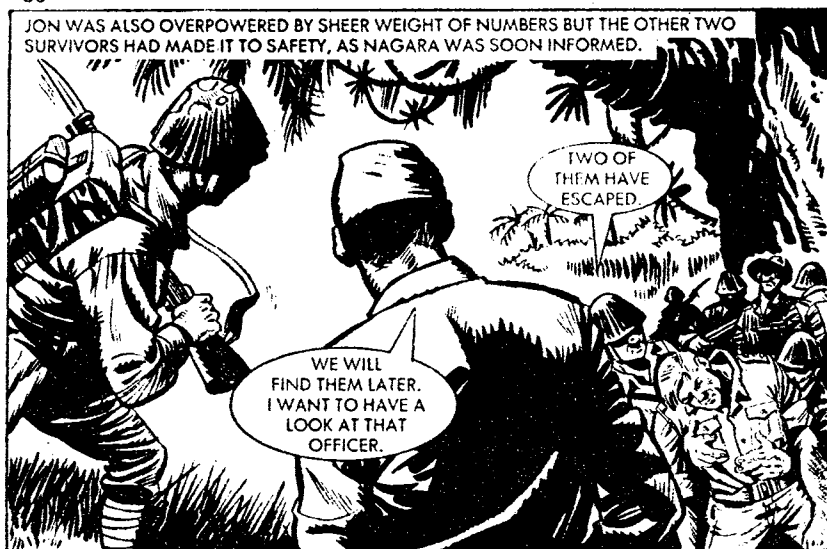
I HAVE  
HIM.

UUUUH!



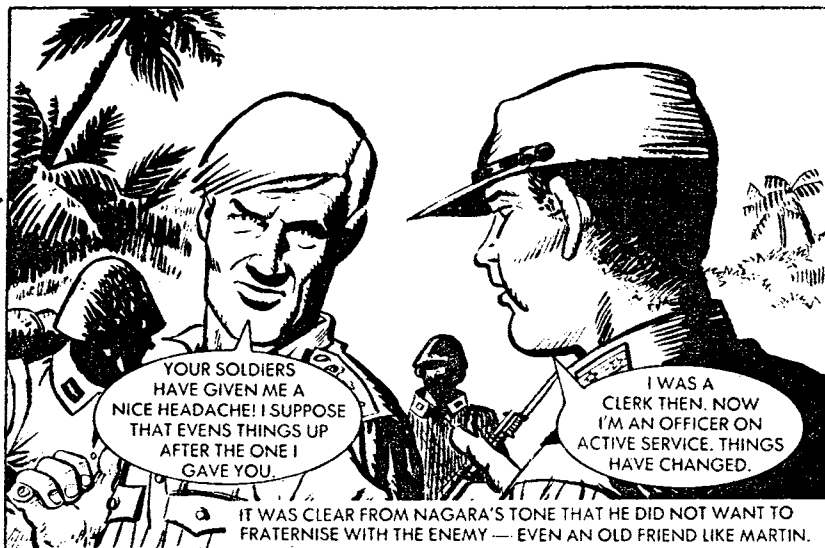
HIS WORLD WENT BLACK.

JON WAS ALSO OVERPOWERED BY SHEER WEIGHT OF NUMBERS BUT THE OTHER TWO SURVIVORS HAD MADE IT TO SAFETY, AS NAGARA WAS SOON INFORMED.



AS MARTIN'S VISION CLEARED, HE SAW THE FAMILIAR FACE STARING AT HIM.





JON AND MARTIN WERE TAKEN TO NAGARA'S C.O., MAJOR TAMOTO. THE MAJOR WAS A  
CRUEL AND AMBITIOUS MAN, WITH A VIOLENT TEMPER.



THEN THE MAJOR SUDDENLY SCREAMED WITH RAGE, LOSING HIS TEMPER COMPLETELY.



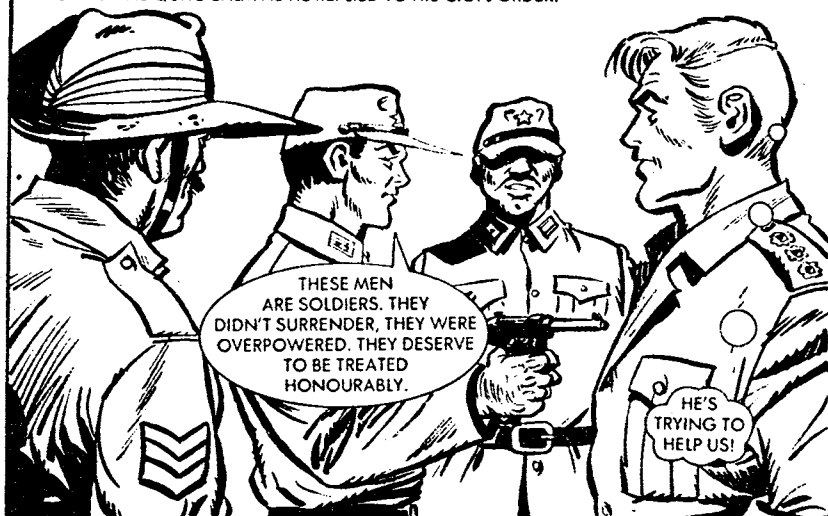
TAMOTO WAS WORRIED THAT THE TWO MEN WHO ESCAPED MIGHT ATTACK THE GUN.



WHEN HE HEARD THAT, TAMOTO SMILED UNPLEASANTLY.



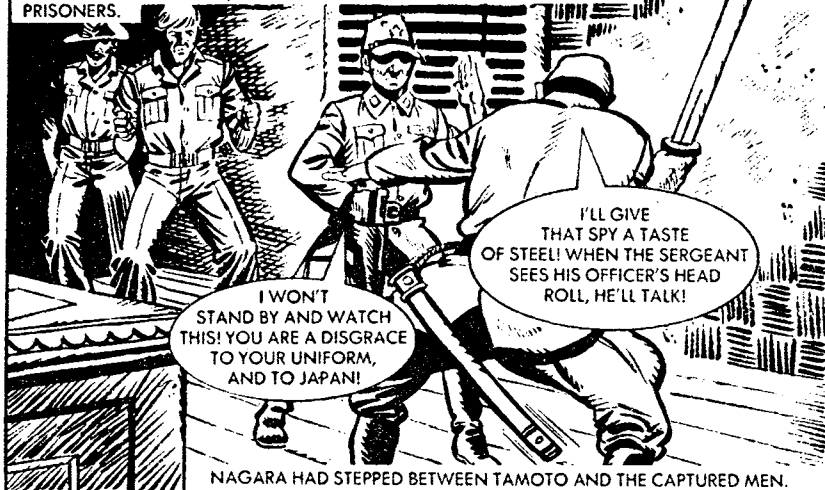
NAGARA WAS QUITE CALM AS HE REPLIED TO HIS C.O.'S ORDER.



MARTIN WAS AMAZED AT NAGARA'S STAND — AND SO WAS TAMOTO. HE SCREAMED IN RAGE AT THE YOUNG LIEUTENANT.



THE JAPANESE MAJOR LURCHED FORWARD, PULLING HIS LONG-BLADED CEREMONIAL SWORD FROM ITS SCABBARD AS HE MOVED TOWARDS THE PRISONERS.



THE MAJOR LAUGHED INSANELY AS HE MENACINGLY WAVED HIS SWORD.





NAGARA, IN POSITION BETWEEN JON AND MARTIN AND THE SWORD-SWINGING MAJOR, SEEMED READY TO DEFEND THEM FROM THIS INSANE SLAUGHTER.

OUT  
OF MY WAY,  
TRAITOR!

WHAT'S GOING  
ON, SIR? THAT JAP'S  
GOING TO GET HIMSELF  
SLICED UP.

NO, NAGARA  
CAN TAKE CARE OF  
HIMSELF.

MARTIN WAS RIGHT. ONCE TAMOTO WAS IN RANGE, NAGARA STRUCK SWIFTLY.

TRAITOR!  
TRAITOR!

I WILL NOT  
WATCH YOU MURDER  
PRISONERS!

THEN AN EXPERT KARATE PUNCH LAID THE MAJOR OUT.

OH,  
VERY NEAT!

UUUGH!

BUT IT WAS SOON CLEAR THAT NAGARA DID NOT INTEND TO LET JON AND MARTIN GO. HE SPOKE IN ENGLISH TO THEM.



JON WAS NO SLOUCH AT UNARMED COMBAT HIMSELF. HE MOVED WITH LIGHTNING SPEED AND CAUGHT NAGARA BY SURPRISE.



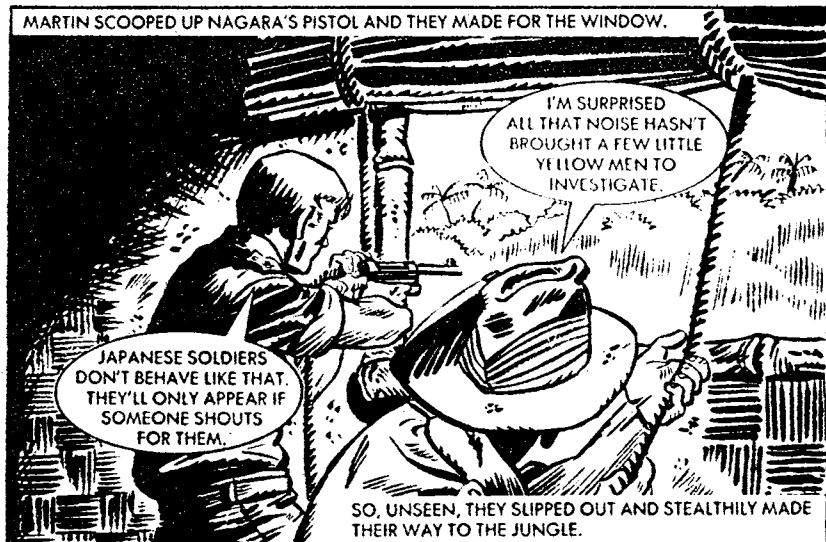
MARTIN MOVED AT THE SAME TIME, AND AS NAGARA THREW JOHN, HE DIDN'T SEE THE ENGLISHMAN COME ROUND BEHIND HIM AND DELIVER AN EXPERT KARATE CHOP.



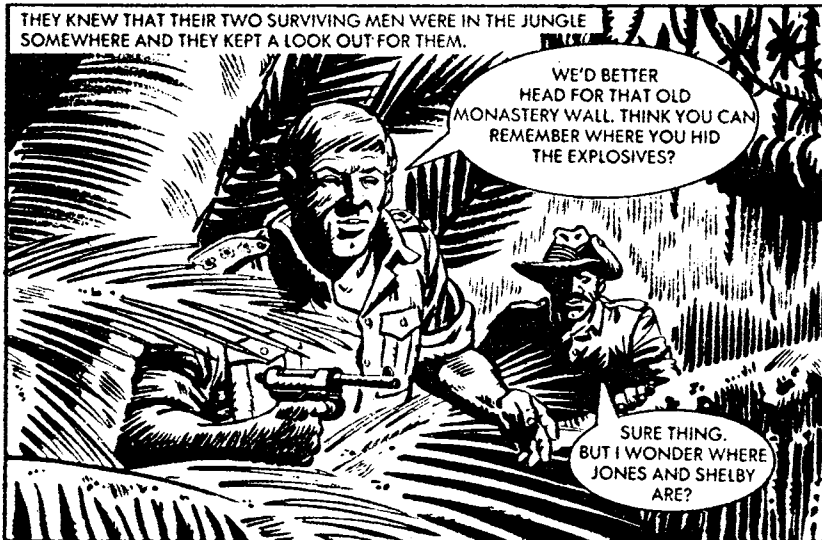
NAGARA SLUMPED UNCONSCIOUS TO THE FLOOR, AND JON REALISED THAT HE FELT A BIT SORRY FOR THE JAPANESE OFFICER.



MARTIN SCOOPED UP NAGARA'S PISTOL AND THEY MADE FOR THE WINDOW.



THEY KNEW THAT THEIR TWO SURVIVING MEN WERE IN THE JUNGLE  
SOMEWHERE AND THEY KEPT A LOOK OUT FOR THEM.



ONE THING STILL PUZZLED MARTIN, HOWEVER.

I WONDER  
WHY THEY DIDN'T TRY  
TO CLOBBER THE GUN  
THEMSELVES?

SHELBY WAS  
WOUNDED IN THE ARM,  
SIR, BUT THAT WOULDN'T  
SLOW HIM DOWN.

THEY FERVENTLY HOPED THAT THE TWO MEN HAD NOT BEEN CAPTURED, FOR AFTER THEIR ESCAPE THE MAJOR WOULD PROBABLY EXECUTE ANY ENEMY SOLDIERS IMMEDIATELY.

BACK IN THE HUT, TAMOTO AND NAGARA WERE REGAINING CONSCIOUSNESS, AND THERE WAS SHEER HATRED IN TAMOTO'S EYES AS HE WATCHED NAGARA.

THAT UPSTART  
HAS INFLUENTIAL FRIENDS,  
HE COULD RUIN ME, THERE ARE  
TOO MANY PEOPLE WHO  
WOULD LIKE TO  
SEE ME FALL!

HAVING USED HIS ARMY POSITION TO MAKE MANY PROFITABLE AND DISHONEST DEALS, TAMOTO HAD ALSO MADE PLENTY OF ENEMIES.

BUT HE DISGUISED HIS FEELINGS WELL AND EVEN HELPED THE YOUNG OFFICER TO HIS FEET.



THE PRISONERS HAVE ESCAPED. WE MUST PUT ASIDE PERSONAL FEELINGS AND CO-OPERATE TO CAPTURE THEM.

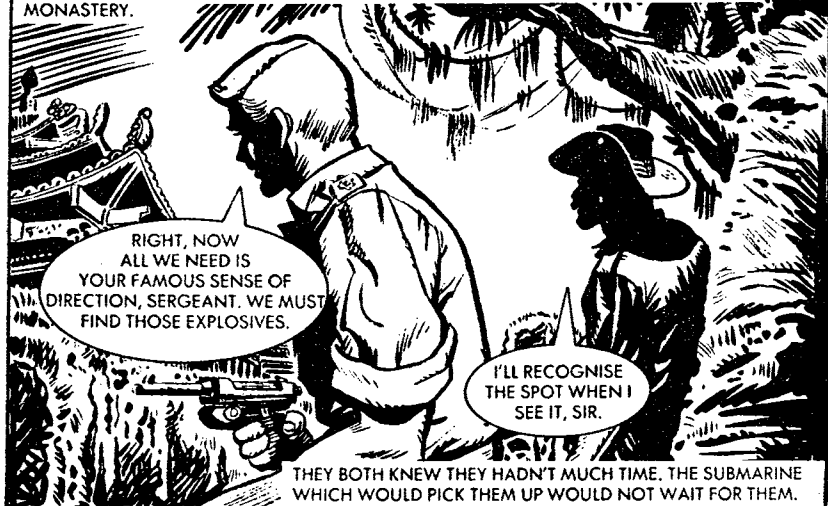
YES, IT IS OUR DUTY TO GUARD THE GUN.

TAMOTO'S SMILE TURNED INTO A SNEER AS NAGARA LEFT THE HUT...



GUARD THE GUN, EH? LIEUTENANT, BEFORE THIS NIGHT'S OUT YOU'RE GOING TO DIE IN ACTION! I WILL SEE TO THAT!

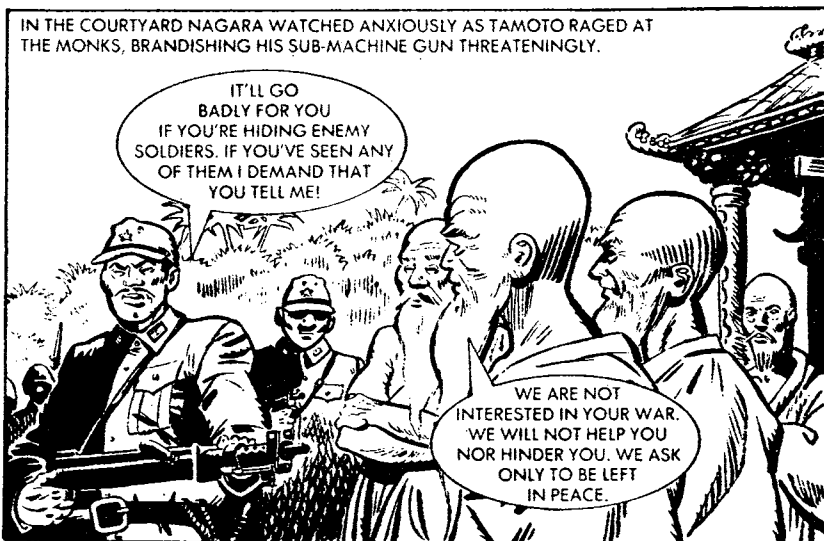
MEANWHILE MARTIN AND JON HAD MADE THEIR WAY BACK TO THE WALL ROUND THE MONASTERY.



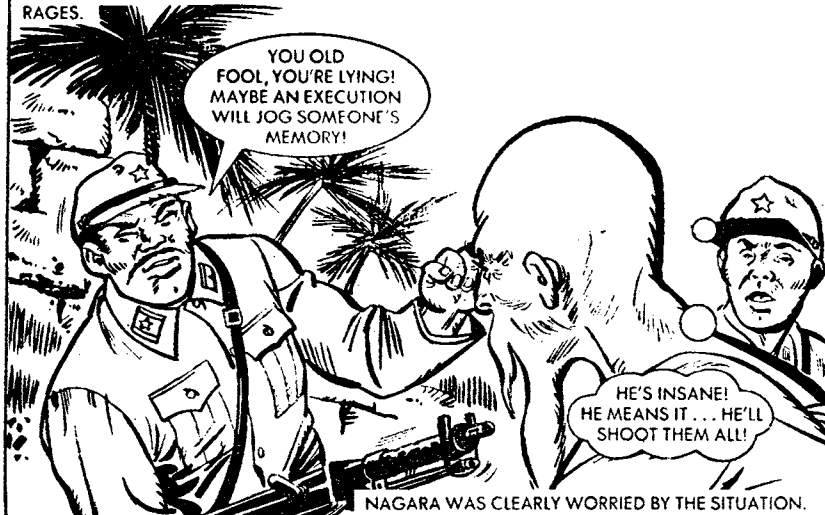
RIGHT, NOW ALL WE NEED IS YOUR FAMOUS SENSE OF DIRECTION, SERGEANT. WE MUST FIND THOSE EXPLOSIVES.

I'LL RECOGNISE THE SPOT WHEN I SEE IT, SIR.

THEY BOTH KNEW THEY HADN'T MUCH TIME. THE SUBMARINE WHICH WOULD PICK THEM UP WOULD NOT WAIT FOR THEM.



THE CALM REPLY INFURIATED TAMOTO WHO WAS SOON IN THE GRIP OF ONE OF HIS MAD RAGES.



BEHIND THE WALL, MARTIN TRANSLATED FOR JON. THOUGH NEITHER OF THE TWO MEN WANTED TO SEE INNOCENT MONKS MURDERED THERE WAS NOTHING THEY COULD DO.

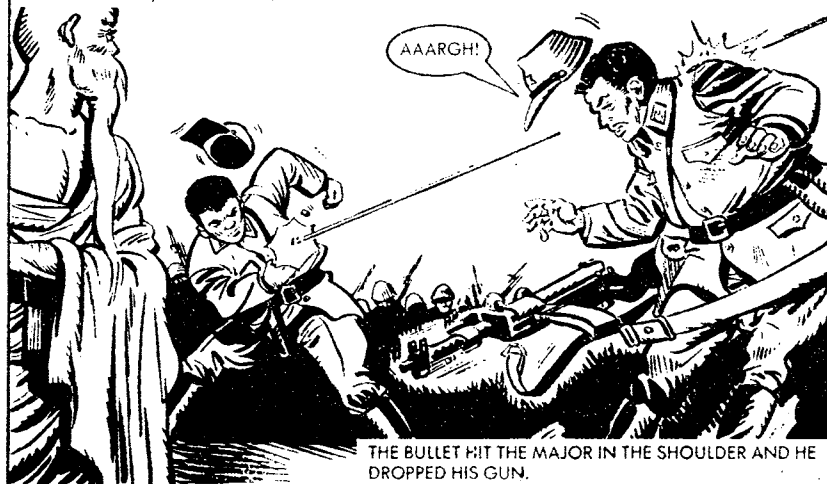




THEN NAGARA MOVED. HE TURNED SWIFTLY AND HELD HIS PISTOL IN A STEADY AIM AT THE MAD MAJOR.



AS TAMOTO TURNED AND RAISED HIS SUB-MACHINE GUN, NAGARA FIRED.



THE JAPANESE SOLDIERS STOOD ROOTED TO THE SPOT IN AMAZEMENT AT ONE OFFICER SHOOTING ANOTHER. NAGARA YELLED TO THE MONKS.



WHEN NAGARA AND THE MONKS FLED, MARTIN AND JON WERE AS SURPRISED AS THE JAPANESE.

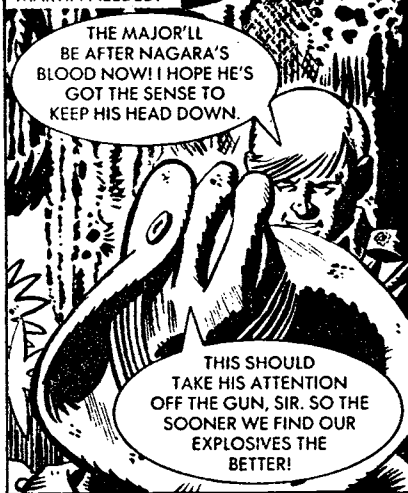


NAGARA'S CONVICTIONS HAD STOPPED HIM FROM KILLING TAMOTO. AND AS HE AND THE MONKS MADE OFF, THE MAJOR STRUGGLED TO HIS FEET AND YELLED AT THE STUNNED SOLDIERS.



DON'T JUST STAND THERE, YOU FOOLS! THEY'RE ALL TRAITORS! GET AFTER THEM!

THIS DIVERSION WAS JUST WHAT JON AND MARTIN NEEDED.



THE MAJOR'LL BE AFTER NAGARA'S BLOOD NOW! I HOPE HE'S GOT THE SENSE TO KEEP HIS HEAD DOWN.

THIS SHOULD TAKE HIS ATTENTION OFF THE GUN, SIR. SO THE SOONER WE FIND OUR EXPLOSIVES THE BETTER!

AS THEY MOVED ALONG BY THE WALL, THE TWO MISSING RAIDERS APPROACHED FROM WHERE THEY HAD BEEN HIDING IN COVER.



SIR, THERE'S JONES AND SHELBY!

WHAT KEPT YOU, SIR? WE'VE BEEN WAITING AGES.

WHEN MARTIN QUESTIONED THE TWO MEN ABOUT WHY THEY HAD DONE NOTHING HE RECEIVED A SHOCK.

WHAT'RE YOU SITTING ROUND HERE FOR? WHY DIDN'T YOU CLOBBER THAT GUN?

WHAT WITH, SIR? WE COULDN'T FIND THE EXPLOSIVES.

JON COULDN'T BELIEVE IT AND SHOUTED ANGRILY AT THEM.

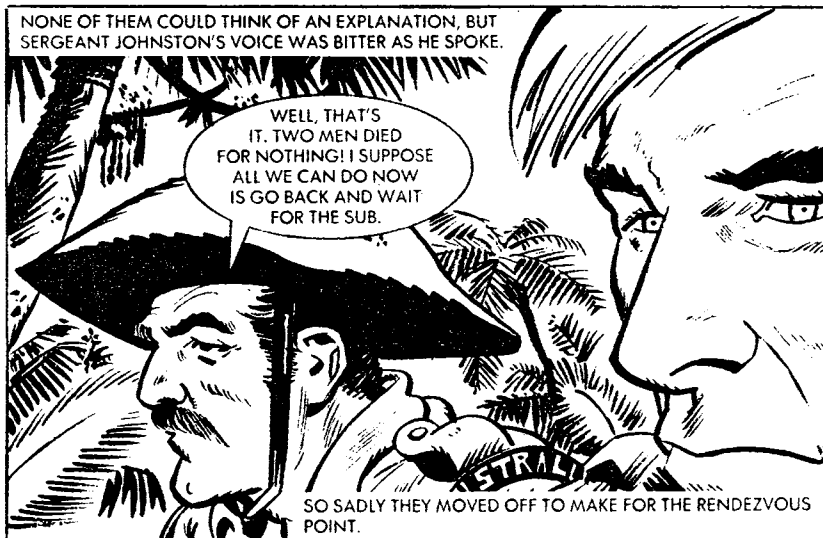
YOU KNOW WHERE I HID THE STUFF. YOU'VE HAD PLENTY OF TIME TO SEARCH ALONG THIS WALL.

WE FOUND THE PLACE, SARGE, BUT THE EXPLOSIVES AREN'T THERE ANY MORE! YOU GO AND LOOK.

MOVING CAREFULLY ALONG THE WALL, THEY REACHED THE PLACE WHERE JON HAD HIDDEN THE VITAL EXPLOSIVES AND DISCOVERED THAT THEY HAD INDEED DISAPPEARED.



NONE OF THEM COULD THINK OF AN EXPLANATION, BUT SERGEANT JOHNSTON'S VOICE WAS BITTER AS HE SPOKE.



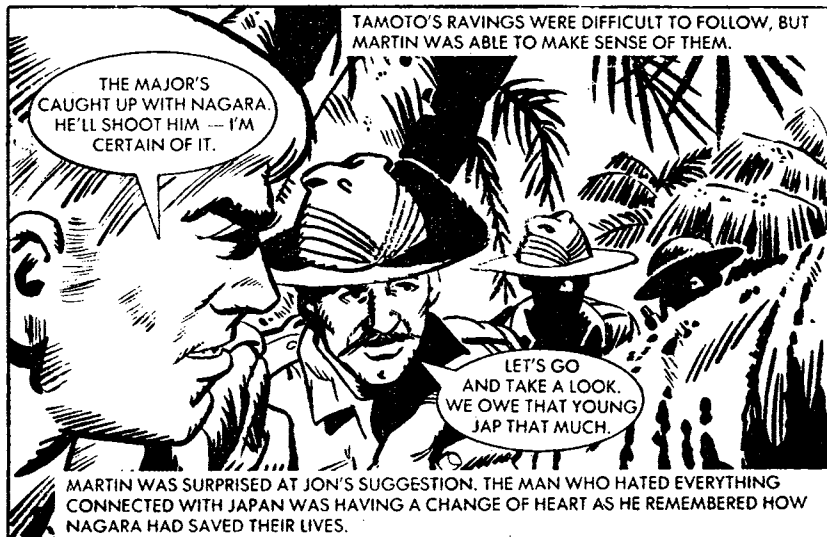
SO SADLY THEY MOVED OFF TO MAKE FOR THE RENDEZVOUS POINT.

BUT ON THEIR WAY TO THE BEACH, AS THEY SKIRTED THE GUN POSITION, THEY HEARD EXCITED SHOUTING IN JAPANESE.



THOSE JAPS  
DON'T HALF MAKE A  
ROW! BUT I SUPPOSE THEY'VE  
GOT SOMETHING TO CROW  
ABOUT NOW. THEY'VE WON  
THIS ROUND.

IT'S THAT  
LUNATIC MAJOR —  
AND HE'S YELLING  
AT NAGARA.



TAMOTO'S RAVINGS WERE DIFFICULT TO FOLLOW, BUT  
MARTIN WAS ABLE TO MAKE SENSE OF THEM.

THE MAJOR'S  
CAUGHT UP WITH NAGARA.  
HE'LL SHOOT HIM — I'M  
CERTAIN OF IT.

LET'S GO  
AND TAKE A LOOK.  
WE OWE THAT YOUNG  
JAP THAT MUCH.

MARTIN WAS SURPRISED AT JON'S SUGGESTION. THE MAN WHO HATED EVERYTHING  
CONNECTED WITH JAPAN WAS HAVING A CHANGE OF HEART AS HE REMEMBERED HOW  
NAGARA HAD SAVED THEIR LIVES.

CAUTIOUSLY THEY MOVED FORWARD, AND STOPPED AS THEY SAW THE JAPS.



AS THEY WATCHED, MAJOR TAMOTO STAGGERED FORWARD, HIS FACE TWISTED WITH TRIUMPH. HE YELLED AT HIS SOLDIERS AS HE RAISED HIS SUB-MACHINE GUN.



THINGS HAD WORKED IN TAMOTO'S FAVOUR. NAGARA HAD ATTACKED HIM IN FRONT OF WITNESSES.



BUT THE MAJOR WAS WEAK FROM LOSS OF BLOOD. AS HE FIRED HE STAGGERED, AND IT SPOILT HIS AIM.



BULLETS SPRAYED WILDLY FROM TAMOTO'S SUB-MACHINE GUN. AND THEN THE NIGHT WAS RENT BY TREMENDOUS EXPLOSION AS THE GUN BLEW UP.






MAJOR TAMOTO, BADLY WOUNDED BY FLYING DEBRIS, FELL TO HIS KNEES AND GAPED IN HORROR AT THE SHATTERED GUN.

WHAT  
HAPPENED...



FROM THEIR COVER THE RAIDING PARTY HAD WATCHED THE BIZARRE SPECTACLE. AMAZED AND DELIGHTED, JON TURNED TO MARTIN.

THAT CRAZY  
JAP PAL OF YOURS!  
I DON'T KNOW HOW BUT  
HE'S DESTROYED THE  
GUN FOR US!

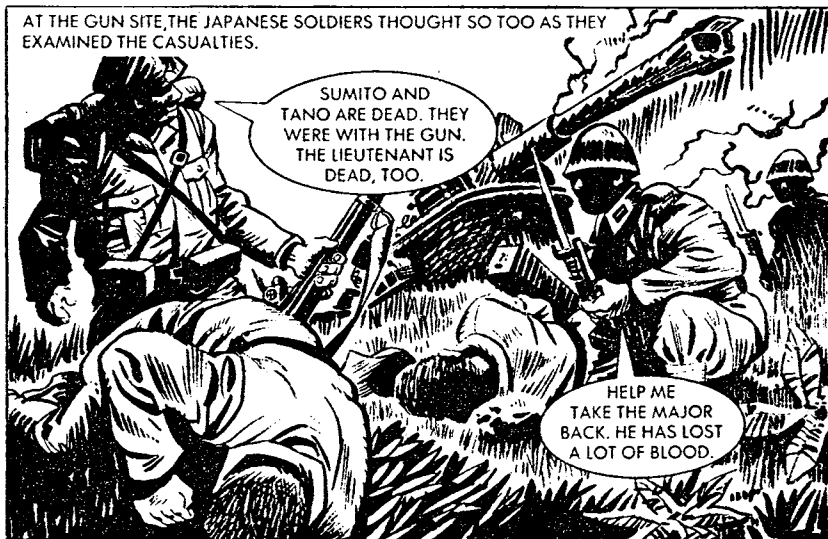


NO, THAT'S  
IMPOSSIBLE. NAGARA  
WOULDN'T DO THAT. FOR  
ALL HIS HATRED OF  
TAKING LIFE, HE WAS  
A PATRIOT.

STILL NEITHER MAN COULD BELIEVE  
WHAT HAD HAPPENED.



AT THE GUN SITE, THE JAPANESE SOLDIERS THOUGHT SO TOO AS THEY  
EXAMINED THE CASUALTIES.



AFTER THE JAPANESE SOLDIERS HAD GONE,  
JON RAN OVER TO NAGARA.

HE'S A  
TOUGH ONE, SIR,  
HE'S STILL  
ALIVE!

YES... I  
THINK I FOOLED  
THE SOLDIERS. CAN YOU  
TAKE ME TO THE MONKS?  
THEY WILL CARE FOR  
ME... MY LEG IS  
HURT...

WITH JON AND MARTIN HELPING HIM, NAGARA STUMBLED TOWARDS THE MONASTERY.

NO MORE  
KARATE FOR ME!  
THE CHOICE HAS BEEN  
MADE FOR ME NOW... I  
SHALL SWOP MY UNIFORM  
FOR A MONK'S  
ROBE...

THEY GOT NEARER AND FOUND THAT THE MONKS HAD RETURNED.

THE MAJOR  
WAS BLEEDING BADLY.  
HE'LL NEED TREATMENT. THEY'LL  
HAVE TO SEND HIM  
TO THE MAINLAND.

NOW THE  
GUN IS DESTROYED  
I THINK THE WHOLE  
UNIT WILL BE  
RECALLED.

I AM HAPPY  
TO HEAR IT. WE DO  
NOT LIKE MEN OF WAR  
OR TOOLS OF WAR ON OUR  
PEACEFUL ISLAND.

AS THE MONKS BEGAN TO TEND TO NAGARA, MARTIN HAD A WORD WITH ONE OF THEM.

WELL, ONE  
OF OUR "TOOLS OF  
WAR" IS STILL ON THIS  
ISLAND SOMEWHERE.  
A BUNDLE OF  
EXPLOSIVES.

A BUNDLE  
... WAS IT IN AN  
ARMY PACK?

MARTIN NODDED AND STARED IN SURPRISE AS THE MONK EXPLAINED WHAT HAD HAPPENED.

I WAS WALKING BY THE WALL, AND I FOUND JUST SUCH A PACK.

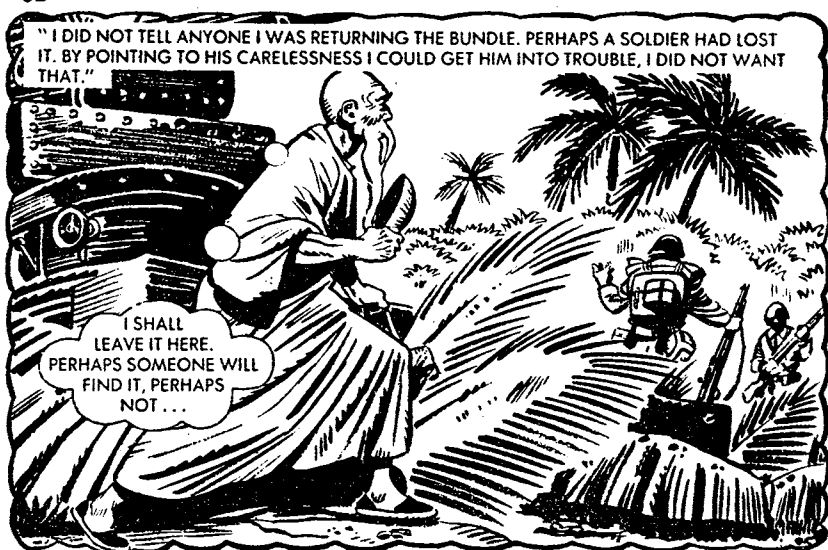
THIS DOES NOT BELONG TO ANY OF MY BROTHERS, IT MUST BELONG TO THE SOLDIERS AT THE GUN SITE.

"I DECIDED TO RETURN THE SOLDIERS' PROPERTY WHEN I WENT TO BEG FOR FOOD. THE SOLDIERS SOMETIMES GAVE US RICE."

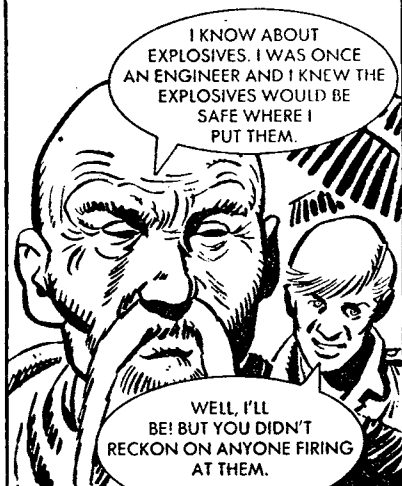
GO TO THE COOK. HE'LL FEED YOU.

THANK YOU.

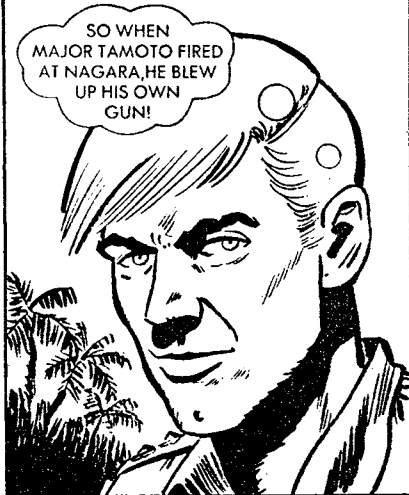




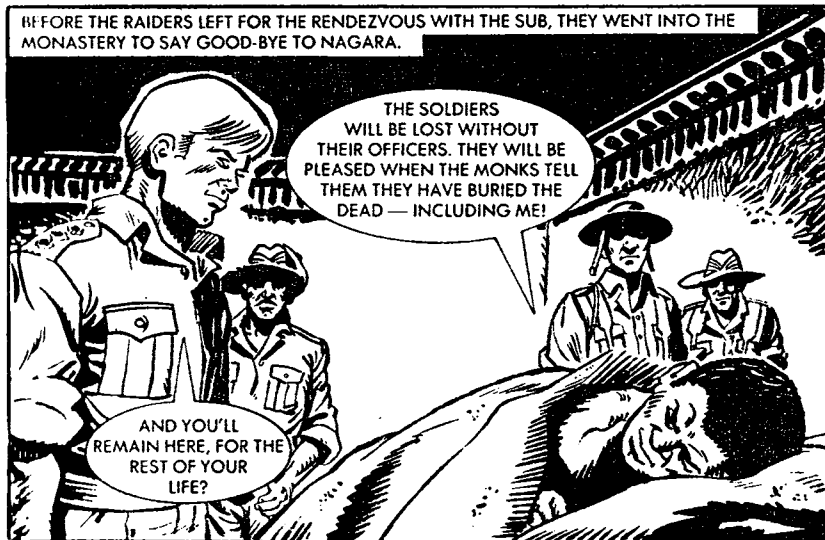
A FAINT SMILE CROSSED THE MONK'S FACE AS HE TURNED AWAY.



MARTIN STILL COULDN'T BELIEVE IT.



BEFORE THE RAIDERS LEFT FOR THE RENDEZVOUS WITH THE SUB, THEY WENT INTO THE MONASTERY TO SAY GOOD-BYE TO NAGARA.



NAGARA NODDED. HE KNEW NOW THAT WHAT HE WAS DOING WAS RIGHT FOR EVERYONE.

I WILL BE REPORTED KILLED IN ACTION. MY PARENTS WILL BE PROUD OF ME AND SUFFER NO DISGRACE. EVERYTHING HAS WORKED OUT WELL FOR ME.

I'LL VISIT YOU AGAIN, AFTER THE WAR.

SO WILL I. WE ALL HAVE A LOT TO THANK YOU FOR.

AND WITH THAT, THEY LEFT TO MAKE FOR THE BEACH.

THEY REACHED THE RENDEZVOUS POINT WITHOUT FURTHER INCIDENT AND WHILE THEY WAITED FOR THE SUBMARINE, JON SAID WHAT HAD BEEN ON HIS MIND SINCE THEY HAD LEFT THE MONASTERY.


THAT YOUNG JAP'LL BE A CRIPPLE FOR LIFE, SIR. HE'LL NEVER DO KARATE AGAIN... AND YET HE LOOKED AS HAPPY AS A MAN WHO'D WON A FORTUNE. WHY?

HE'S FOUND WHAT HE'S BEEN SEARCHING FOR, SERGEANT. HE'S AT PEACE WITH HIMSELF.





AND AS THE SUBMARINE SURFACED TO PICK THEM UP, MARTIN ECHOED THE THOUGHTS WHICH EVERYONE HELD.



LET'S HOPE  
THE WORLD WILL BE  
AT PEACE, TOO, JON,  
VERY SOON. COME  
ON, LET'S GO!

BUT FOR MARTIN AND JON, THERE WAS  
TO BE MORE FIGHTING UNTIL THE WAR  
WAS EVENTUALLY WON.

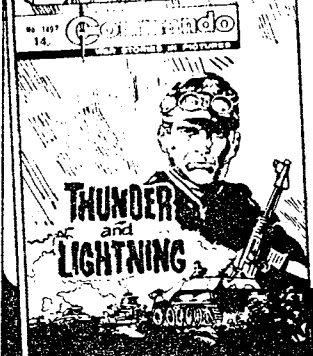
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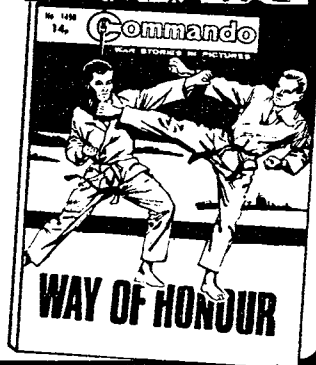
**" BRIGHT BLADE OF COURAGE "**  
**" DESERT ORDEAL "**

**" TRAIL BLAZERS "**  
**" ALWAYS A PRISONER "**

# **Commando** - WHERE THE ACTION IS TOUGHEST!



THERE'S  
PAGE  
AFTER  
PAGE OF  
EXCITEMENT  
IN THESE  
FOUR  
LATEST  
THRILL-A-  
MINUTE  
BOOKS!



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**Stars of Darts—Cliff Lazarenko**

# WAY OF HONOUR

**B**EFORE the Second World War few westerners had ever heard of the Japanese sport of karate, with its own rules, its own customs. But one young Englishman, Martin Hawkins, studied it when he lived and worked in Japan. So skilled was he that it wasn't long before he was a black belt champion.

Then war broke out and Martin was forced to return home, little knowing that his expertise in karate was going to save his life one day.

